

This is KADATH, a journal of postal Diplomacy, carrying 1970BL, the low Blow game, played by people who ought to know better, and analyzed by other people who ought to know better. This is the Kibitzer's 'Zine, and subscriptions to it are 10/\$1. This is Pandemonium Publication #305, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116; telephone (714) 282-1921; member, NFFFGD Diplomacy Division, IFW Diplomacy Society and the Diplomacy Association (if any).

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UM...SORRY ABOUT THAT. A sudden smash of overtime work has put a crimp in Gary Jones' schedule until next fall. Therefore, the announced start of DIPLOGROK is similarly delayed. Gary is still accepting contributions of articles and so on, however.

1970BL -- ITALIANS CELEBRATE AS AUSTRIAN REVOLUTIONARIES SCUTTLE FLEET NEAR MALTA. MILLIONS ANSWER ENGLISH, TURKISH DRAFT CALLS.

Winter 1902: AUSTRIA (vonMetzke): NO ORDERS RECEIVED. GM removes F Ion (IAW HR 14). ENGLAND (Cochran): B F Lpl. FRANCE (Peery): No change. GERMANY (Nelson): No change. ITALY (Lakofka): No change. RUSSIA (Welsh): No change. TURKEY (Naus): B A Con, F Smy.

VER PLOEG SPEAKS...Brenton VerFloeg

As promised, I am going to try to forget about the game that is being played out before our very eyes, and merely take the positions involved and analyze them from an abstract point of view, contingent on what their best interests demand. This time: ITALY.

Italy is my least favorite country, by a margin of maybe 20-1. Offensively, it's almost impossible to get new builds to the front, and defensively, Italy at 4 or 5 units will often get nailed from one side if he fares out on another. Given those inherent weaknesses, the Diplomacy weak sister is in a potentially excellent position from which to build this year. He is not subject to the defensive weakness, provided he moves quickly enough, because France will obviously be too busy. Offensively, Austria is on the ropes, so it's a race against time for Italy. Can he become a major power before E/G roll down on him from behind? If so, perhaps he can pry one of the allies away from the other. By annihilating the Apulia army this next turn, he can go to four in the Fall, and be at five by next year. The crucial issue is his alliance structure.

Italy has one obvious ally--Russia. R/I is almost a certainty as far as usual procedures are concerned, for Italy must, above all, grow now or he will never have the chance. But assume that done for a moment. What strategic problems confront him? (1) At his front is Turkey--powerful and obviously impossible to defeat before potential enemies break through France. Must he fight Naus with Russia, or turn against him? (2) If he protects himself for the short term by an alliance with Russia, and gets tied up against Turkey, who will protect his rear? (3) If he allies with Turkey, where will he expand, and how will he ever manage to curtail the traditional habit of Turkey in an I/T alliance to slip past Italy to "stop the Western powers" and somehow manage to find lay-over points in the Italian ports? (4) What alliance structure will serve to break the E/G danger? All of these must be considered, if only in general terms.

In terms of solution, Italy is saddled with all the problems which his country implies, and there are a great many. He must, however, (1) try to break up the English and Germans; (2) NOT allow the Russians and Turks to

unite--if this alternative comes off, he may as well forget it, and let E/G hit R/T somewhere in the middle of his country; (3) eliminate the Austrians on his front as quickly as possible, in order to gain enough power to become an effective negotiator (and note that his alliance structure must be set BEFORE he gets a center or two; if he builds fleets, it's anti-Turkish, and he doesn't want to have to do that unless there is no other alternative). These are negative requirements, of course. Positively, and in obvious correlation to the above, he might try several things at this point:

[1] Gain an alliance with E against G by arguing that he could take the ground portion of the assault. This cannot be credible, however, without a Turkish alliance also, because the Turks would bowl though weak Italian sea power long before the English could help out.

[2] Try to become the naval power for a Russian/German/Italian play. Obviously, the German alliance would be scheduled to come into play only AFTER the demise of France--E & G would be pretty foolish to give up all those centers now after starting in on them. Italy could build all fleets, and might become the crucial power against the English and Turks, picking up concessions as he went. Iberia perhaps from the English, and a couple of centers from the Turks. The key of diplomacy, of course, is to keep the REST of the board in stasis while YOU make headway and gain the initiative. Frankly, this method would serve Italy the best.

[3] Try to knock out Turkey with a Russian alliance in time to be able to forget about the Germans and English. In fact, the whole point would be involved in a race against time. Obviously, this is a poor alternative, but sometimes when you have only small change because of the positions of other powers, you must do the best you can....

[4] He might, finally, try to ally with France, sending a fleet out his way in order to help out, and maybe sending two. Here again, he would have to have a Turkish alliance, which would probably be hard to procure, but he could argue that Turkey would have to do SOMETHING in order to hold up the E/G alliance. And even if it involves keeping three inactive fleets, he could argue that it's better that the fleets be inactive than that the western powers become so large that they would bear Turkey down. Turkey will have no trouble getting third in this game, but that's not what anyone tries for. First, of course, he would have to get Turkey either to abandon Austria, or turn Austria against Russia, while ceding a center or two to Italy to provide for the much needed extra fleet or two (or three). A dangerous game for Turkey, but aren't they all?

As far as being attractive, and starting from equal positions, I would rate, in order of preference, in this way: 2,4,1,3. The big problem with Diplomacy, though, is that you do NOT start out anonymously--the countries are all played by people, and they all have their separate ways of doing things. Having talked plenty about personalities last time, I spent this entire article on NOTHING BUT artificial considerations of strategy. Any attempt to read personalities into this article, or any resemblance to any person living or dead, is entirely coincidental, and the management denies all responsibility therefor. Now I'm going out and get stoned.

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY SWALLOW -- Len Lakofka

Chapter 2 (Cont'd from #6)

Each year, Kathy VanMiller would travel to SanFrancisco, there to consort with a renowned--not necessarily for his fashion designing success--couturier who would drape her with his latest creations. This year she

returned, her voluptuous frame covered in the style, the motif, and the garb that could only be called the Pregnant Hun look. To comment on how the other ladies appeared at Sunday service, in these creations, would be jolly for me to mention.

But this giant stride backward in the creation of feminine mystique was accepted by the Swallowers, who found the disheveled look both exciting and enticing. Most excited was the young school teacher Roddy Wacker--rivaled only by the town bully and fop, tavern owner Buddy Tree Teck.

To be continued

Press Releases

BERLIN: Rumors circulating in this capital, and actually printed in one newspaper before copies were seized by the censor, indicate that the Kaiser is selling all his shares in 88s and buying Turkish securities even at the present outrageous price. He is convinced, an informed, usually reliable source told me, that the Sick Man of Europe has shaken his malady or, to be more accurate, has succeeded in passing it to every other Power in Europe. It is true that the Kaiser has purchased a villa in Zurich, but for what purpose no one is willing to speculate in public. --Dick Tyler, special correspondent, New York Times

NSG: Lonely-- Emperor of a certain central European power seeks companionship, even in the form of a letter, from other powers interested in discourse. For the moment have something to offer.

PEERIS (25 December 1902): In ceremonies at NotreDame Cathedral this morning, the Duke Louis de Peeriguerx was crowned as His Majesty, King Louis XXVII of France. Immediately thereafter, King Louis crowned his wife, Margaret, as Queen of France.

PEERIS (26 December 1902): His Majesty the King today appointed the Duke of Aquitaine as Premier of the Government.

GASTRITIS (29 December 1902): The Colon, Poderkagg's supreme legislative body, is in an uproar today over the news that King Pandemonium V intends to recognize the Peerisite government of France and to receive the French Ambassador, Won Ton Macoute (a Haitian born in China). Mandrake Ourobouros, a Senator from Novizion, declared yesterday, "The Senate cannot sit idly by and see our Celestial Monarch's approval given to a Peerisitic régime, when all the world knows that the Peerisites are the sworn enemies of Western Civilization as we know it!" "Yes, Mandrake," rejoined Faustus Saruman, Senator from Draconis, "but you must admit that Western Civilization as we know it is hardly very much like Western Civilization as most other people know it."

GASTRITIS (30 December 1902): King Pandemonium V looked up from His breakfast of lambs' eyes and peacocks' tongues in honey. "We see no reason for all this upset. After all, Our government recognizes the Dirac Angestum Gesept government of Germany, does it not? And do We not deal with Prime Minister Cochrane of England? And do We not even accept the Ambassador of the Swallower Government of Italy? Well, if We can recognize that motley crew, We can certainly deal with the Peerisites." "Bravely spoken, my love," put in Queen Vendetta, busily buttering some biscuits which a moment before had been small stones. The interview was terminated a few minutes later when the Queen turned a couple of the reporters into frogs. She changed them back again when informed that they were not Princes, but by then nobody felt like staying any longer than necessary.